

12¢

BATMAN

BAT-AUCTION!
EVERYTHING MUST GO!



PEOPLE OF GOTHAM CITY!
EVERYTHING CONNECTED
WITH **BATMAN** HAS BEEN
SOLD-- EXCEPT FOR MY
UNIFORM! NOW, WHAT
AM I BID --

**"The DAY
BATMAN
SOLD OUT!"**

INFANTINO
ANDERSON

HAUNTED HOUSE MYSTERY BANK

SHUDDER WHILE
YOU SAVE



STURDY CONSTRUCTION

Sturdily constructed of metal and plastic for years of saving with fun. It's a perfect gift, too. Operates on 2 ordinary flashlight batteries obtainable anywhere. Price \$5.95 plus .35c for postage and handling. (Batteries not included.)

7 INCHES HIGH

7 INCHES WIDE

9 INCHES DEEP

If you like the chills and thrills of the unusual this bank is for you, and it makes saving those coins real fun. Just place a penny, nickel, dime or (if you're independently wealthy) a quarter . . . on the step of the house. With a groan and a rattle the house lights up—spookily—and the door slowly opens. The Horror Hand sneaks out of the doorway and snatches the coin back in! The door slams shut, the lights snap off and all is still. Whew! Want to try it again? Go ahead. It's money in the bank!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP. DEPT. 86BA29
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK 11563

Rush the Haunted House Mystery Bank to the address below. If I am not delighted with my purchase in every way I may return it within 10 days for a full purchase price refund.

- ☐ I enclose \$5.95 plus .35c for postage and handling in full payment.
☐ Send C.O.D. I enclose \$1.00 good will deposit and will pay balance plus C.O.D. and postage charges on arrival

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP

POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

Over 7 Feet Long
Big Enough For
2 Kids

Fires Rockets and Torpedoes

Only \$6.98



FEATURES

- Over 7 feet long
- Seats 2 kids
- Controls that work
- Rockets that fire
- Real periscope
- Firing torpedoes
- Electrically lit instrument panel

How proud you will be as commander of your own POLARIS SUB—the most powerful weapon in the world! What hours of imaginative play and fun as you and your friends dive, surface, maneuver, watch the enemy through the periscope and fire your nuclear missiles and torpedoes! What thrills as you play at hunting sunken treasures in pirate waters and exploring the strange and mysterious bottom of the deep ocean floor!

HOURS AND HOURS OF ADVENTURE

Sturdily constructed of 200 lb. test fibreboard. Comes complete with easy assembly instructions. Costs only \$6.98 for this giant of fun, adventure and science. (Because of the POLARIS SUB's giant size we must ask for 75c shipping charges.)

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Order today and we will rush your POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB to you. Use it for 10 full days. If you don't think it is the greatest ever—the best toy you ever had—just send it back for full purchase price refund.

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

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LYNBROOK, NEW YORK

Rush me my POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB. I can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for full purchase price refund.

- ☐ SEND IT PREPAID. I enclose \$6.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges.
☐ SEND IT C.O.D. I enclose \$1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman \$5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZONE STATE

N.Y. State residents please add 14¢ sales tax.

LIKE A BOMBSHELL
THE ANNOUNCEMENT
FELL ON GOTHAM
CITY!

BATMAN WAS CALLING
IT QUITE! HE WAS
EVEN GETTING RID OF
EVERYTHING CONNECTED
WITH HIS CAREER --
HIS UTILITY BELT--
BATARANG --BAT-
ROPE--BATMOBILE--
UNIFORM! ALL WOULD
GO TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER AT PUBLIC
AUCTION! NOT EVEN
THE BOY WONDER
COULD FATHOM THE
DEADLY SECRET WHICH
WEIGHED DOWN THE
CAPED CRUSADER ON...

With **ROBIN**
THE
BOY WONDER

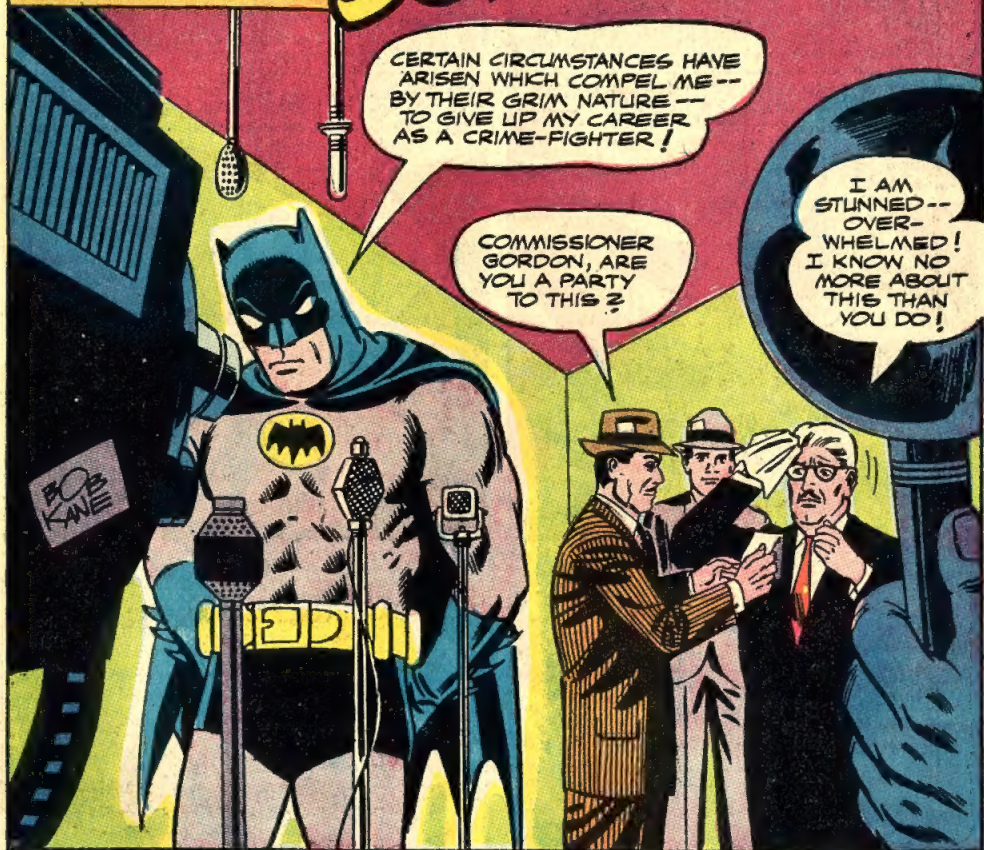
BATMAN

THE DAY BATMAN SOLD OUT!

CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE
ARISEN WHICH COMPEL ME --
BY THEIR GRIM NATURE --
TO GIVE UP MY CAREER
AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!

COMMISSIONER
GORDON, ARE
YOU A PARTY
TO THIS?

I AM
STUNNED --
OVER-
WHELMED!
I KNOW NO
MORE ABOUT
THIS THAN
YOU DO!



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AMID THE HUM AND CRACKLE OF A SUBTERRANEAN ATOMIC POWER REACTOR--A MAN SCREAMS SAVAGELY...

BATMAN?!

IT'S TAKEN ME A LONG TIME-- BUT I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU! YOUR RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE ROBBERIES ARE OVER!



YOU'RE NOT STOPPING ME NOW-- WHEN I'M ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING THE GREATEST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD--

IN PRISON, IS MORE LIKE IT!

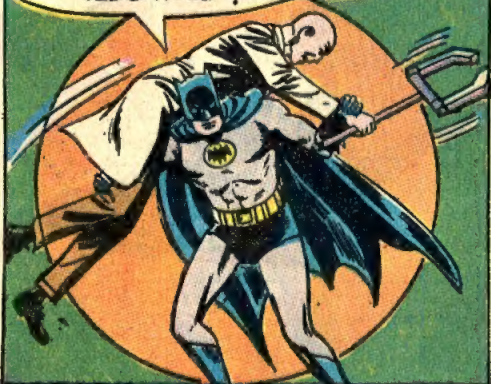


HYSTERICAL WITH FURY, IRA RADON LIFTS AND SWINGS A METAL CLAW AND ARM...

IF IT MEANS KILLING YOU--TO PROTECT ALL THE YEARS I'VE INVESTED STUDYING THE ART OF RADIOACTIVE CRIMINALITY--SO BE IT!



YOU'VE GOT TO DO BETTER THAN THAT! OR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRIGGLE OUT OF MY KATA GURUMA JUDO HOLD?



A BUNCHING OF MASSIVE MUSCLES, A WHIRLING TOSS AND...

AAAGGHH!

I NEGLECTED TO LOCK THE DOOR AND I'M FALLING INTO THE REACTOR CHAMBER! WH-WHAT'LL BECOME OF M-ME...?



AS THE CAPED CRUSADER LEAPS FOR THE GENERATOR SWITCH, A FRENZIED VOICE SCREECHES FROM THE GLOWING RADIATION CHAMBER...

I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR THIS, BATMAN! AS YOU HAVE DONE TO ME-- SO WILL I DO TO YOU! AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH!

I NEVER MEANT TO FLING HIM THROUGH THAT DOOR, BUT HE WOULD NEVER BELIEVE THAT!



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE SWATHED FORM OF WHAT WAS ONCE A MASTER CRIMINAL LIES QUIETLY...

I SHALL LIVE!
YET--I SHALL NEVER BE MY OLD SELF!
THE RADIATION DOSE CHANGED MY METABOLISM... SO THAT IF I SHOULD EVER STEAL AGAIN, THE RADIOACTIVITY IN MY BODY--WHICH I CAN NEVER LOSE--WILL PROVE FATAL!



BECAUSE OF MY EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF RADIATION--I KNOW THAT THE VERY ACT OF STEALING WOULD CAUSE A REACTION IN MY GLANDULAR AND NERVOUS SYSTEMS--WHICH MY BODY COULD NOT TOLERATE!



I'LL PAY **BATMAN** BACK--IN HIS OWN COIN!
WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME, I'LL DO TO HIM! BECAUSE I MUST RETIRE AS A THIEF--I'LL FORCE HIM TO RETIRE AS A **CRIME-FIGHTER**!
KILLING IS TOO GOOD FOR HIM! BUT FIRST I MUST ESCAPE--



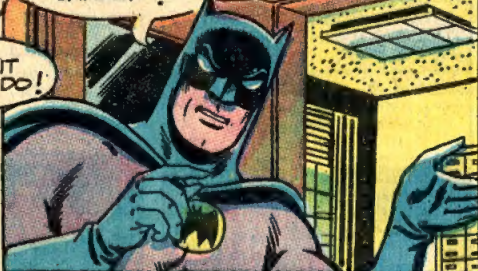
AND SO... SOME MONTHS LATER IN THE HALL OUTSIDE POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE OFFICE...

COMMISSIONER, WHAT'S WITH THIS SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE **BATMAN** HAS CALLED IN YOUR OFFICE?



I KNOW NO MORE ABOUT IT THAN YOU DO!

COME IN, GENTLEMEN. I HAVE PREPARED THE MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT OF MY CAREER!



TELEVISION CAMERAS--
RADIO MICRO-PHONES--
PENS AND PENCILS--
WAIT EXPECTANTLY AS...



AFTER I READ MY STATEMENT, COPIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO YOU!
READY--HERE GOES!
"CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN WHICH COMPEL ME--BY THEIR GRIM NATURE-- TO GIVE UP MY CAREER AS A **CRIME-FIGHTER**!"



PANDEMONIUM EXPLODES AS THE CAPED CRUSADER CONCLUDES...

"TOMORROW AT HIGH NOON IN GOTHAM SQUARE I WILL HOLD AN AUCTION TO DIVEST MYSELF OF EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH MY CAREER!"

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHAT ARE THOSE GRIM CIRCUMSTANCES COMPELLING YOU TO RETIRE?

DOES ROBIN KNOW ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT? WILL HE CARRY ON WITHOUT YOU?

IS THIS A TRICK--?

I WILL ANSWER NO QUESTIONS! MY STATEMENT STANDS AS READ!

IS YOUR LIFE IN DANGER?

BALKED BY **BATMAN**, THE REPORTERS TURN ON COMMISSIONER GORDON...

ARE YOU A PARTY TO THIS, COM-MISSIONER?

WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THIS BOMB-SHELL?

I'M STUNNED--OVER-WHELMED!

A FEW HOURS LATER, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON GETS HIS FIRST HINT OF THE TERRIBLE TRUTH...

WHY WOULD **BATMAN** DO SUCH A THING?

IT'S HIS SECRET--AND HE WON'T TELL!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT **BATMAN**?

A BLOCK FURTHER, HIS EYES FALL ON THE HEADLINES OF AN EXTRA...

HUH? **BATMAN**--QUITTING? I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

--EXTRA--
BATMAN CALLS IT QUITS! GOTHAM CITY STUNNED!

NEVER HAS HE RUN SO FAST AS NOW...

HE'D HAVE TOLD ME IF HE MEANT IT! SURE! IT'S A TRICK OF--A CLEVER PLAY TO CATCH A CROOK! IT'S GOT TO BE!

BURSTING INTO THE BOOK-LINED LIBRARY, DICK SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT AND...

BRUCE--I'M HURT! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS PONEY RETIREMENT?

MY STATEMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF! NOW--DICK--YOU BETTER GO TO YOUR ROOM AND STUDY!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

ACTION · FUN & PLAY

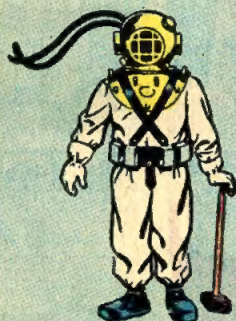
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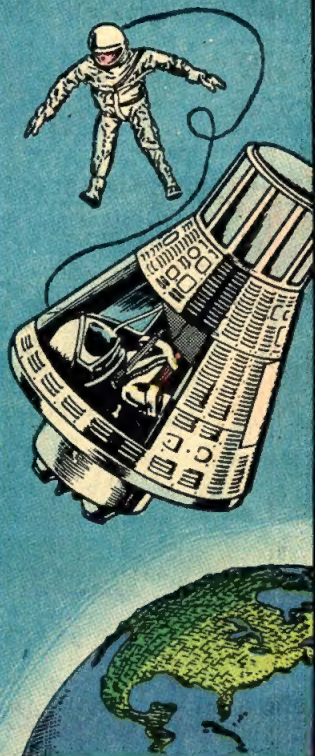
ON LAND



ON SEA...



AND IN OUTER SPACE



UNDERWATER, TOO!



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STABBED TO THE QUICK BY THOSE ICY WORDS, DICK STUMBLES BLINDLY FOR THE DOOR, BUT RISKS A GLANCE BACK AT ALFRED...



THE FOLLOWING NOON, IN GOTHAM SQUARE...

IT'S LIKE THE END OF MY WORLD! HE--HE'S EVEN PUTTING MY UNIFORM UP FOR SALE!

I SHALL NOW BEGIN THE AUCTION! WHAT AM I BID FOR--THE BATROPE?

AUCTION



ONE BY ONE THE BAT-OBJECTS ARE KNOCKED DOWN TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS...

SOLD--TO THAT GENTLEMAN IN THE REAR FOR \$10,000--MY TRUSTED BATARANG!



EVEN THE POLICE COMMISSIONER JOINS IN THE SPIRITED BIDDING, HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA AT HIS SIDE...

I'D SURE LIKE TO HAVE THE HOT-LINE PHONE-- AS A SOUVENIR OF MY MANY PLEASANT ASSOCIATIONS WITH BATMAN! I BID ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS!

WHAT WILL THIS MEAN TO ME--AS BATGIRL?



SOLD--THE HOT-LINE PHONE FOR \$5000 TO THE MAN IN THE CHECKERED JACKET!

\$5,000 IS TOO RICH FOR MY BLOOD! I'M ONLY THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!

AUCTION

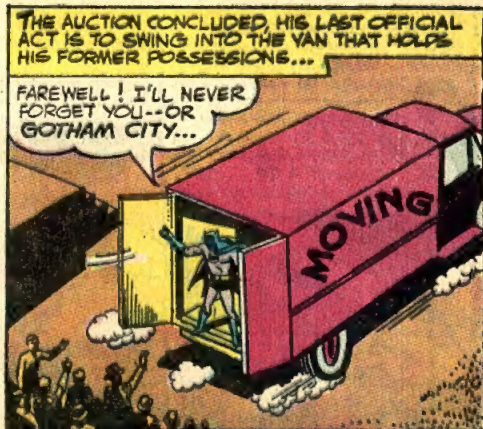


THE FINAL MOMENT HAS COME! ONLY THE WORLD-FAMOUS GARMENT--THAT HAS STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF WRONGDOERS--REMAINS UNSOLD...

AUCTION

NOW, WHAT AM I BID FOR MY UNIFORM & IT--AS WELL AS THE OTHER ITEMS-- CAN BE REDEEMED TOMORROW AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION-- BY THE AUCTION WINNERS!





STARING INTO TELEVISION SCREENS WITH MINGLED EMOTIONS IN THEIR HEARTS ARE A COUPLE OF BATMAN'S LONG-TIME FOES...



"I WAS FOLLOWING TWO JEWEL THIEVES--AND HAD JUST HURLED MY LAST BATARANG WHEN..."

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! ALL OF A SUDDEN A LIGHT-BEAM FLASHED ON--FORMING A SPOTLIGHT FOR MY BATARANG!

JUST AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED--THE LIGHT WENT OUT! OH, WELL--AT LEAST IT DIDN'T INTERFERE WITH MY NABBING THESE CROOKS!

"LATER THAT NIGHT, IN THE BATCAVE, WHEN I WAS EXAMINING MY BAT-WEAPONS AS I USUALLY DO..."

Oh? MY RADIATION-DETECTOR IS SHOWING THAT MY BATARANG IS--RADIOACTIVE! BUT HOW? DID THAT ODD LIGHT CAUSE...
WAIT!!

"I REMEMBERED OTHER NIGHTS WHEN I'D BEEN OUT COMBATTING CRIME WITH MY ARSENAL OF BAT-WEAPONS. FROM TIME TO TIME, THERE WAS A FLASH OF LIGHT..."

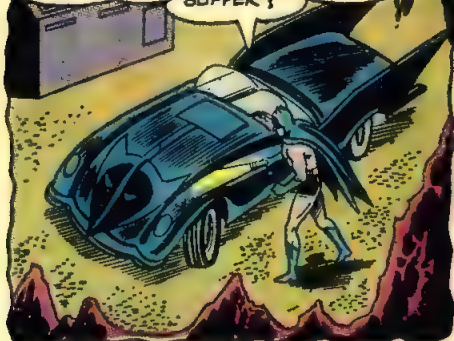
POW!
ZOCKO!

"TO MY SHOCKED DISMAY I LEARNED THAT..."

ONLY MY BAT-OBJECTS ARE CONTAMINATED... ROBIN'S ARE "CLEAN"! I BETTER CHECK OUT THE BATMOBILE, TOO...

WHAT'S THIS? WHEN I SHINE THIS DETECTION LIGHT ON THE BATMOBILE, RADIO-ACTIVE LETTERING APPEARS--SPELLING OUT WORDS! "YOU ARE FINISHED, BATMAN! I HAVE CONTAMINATED ALL YOUR ANTI-CRIME WEAPONS!"

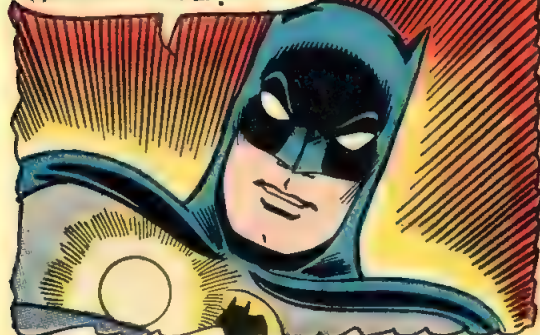
"BY THIS TIME YOUR BODY HAS ABSORBED JUST ENOUGH RADIOACTIVITY TO PLACE YOU IN MY POWER ! BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE ! I WANT YOU TO LIVE--UNABLE TO FUNCTION AS A CRIME-FIGHTER ! YOU MUST SUFFER AS YOU HAVE MADE ME SUFFER !"



"AUCTION OFF YOUR BAT-POSSESSIONS IN FULL PUBLIC VIEW ! ABANDON YOUR BATMAN ROLE ! DO NOT TRY TO TRICK ME, OR TO FIGHT CRIME IN SOME OTHER DISGUISE ! FOR JUST AS CRIMINALS HAVE A MODUS OPERANDI--SO TOO, DOES A CRIME-CRUSADER LIKE YOURSELF !"



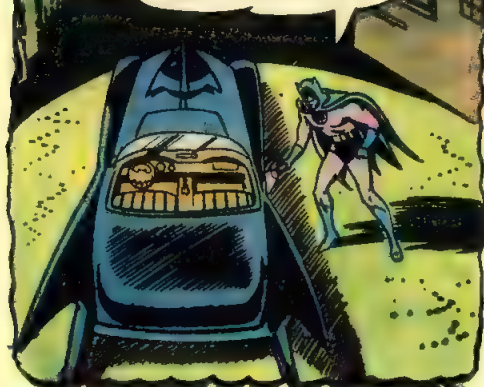
"I WOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR METHODS ANYWHERE ! SOONER OR LATER YOU WOULD BE BOUND TO BETRAY YOURSELF, NO MATTER HOW CLEVER YOU THINK YOU ARE ! THE MOMENT I LEARN YOU HAVE DECEIVED ME--I SHALL INTENSIFY THE RADIATION IN YOUR BODY-- AND KILL YOU !"



"I DID NOT INFECT YOUR BODY DIRECTLY WITH MY RADIOACTIVITY, FOR IT WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU--AND KILLING YOU IS TOO EASY A WAY OUT ! EXPOSURE TO YOUR INFECTED BAT-WEAPONS FILLED YOUR BODY WITH JUST THE PROPER AMOUNT OF RADIATION FOR MY PURPOSE !"

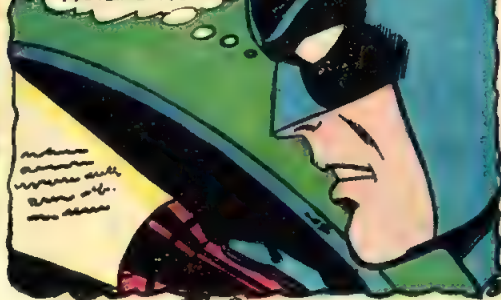


"SO THE CHOICE IS YOURS ! EITHER RENOUNCE YOUR CAREER AS BATMAN--OR CONTINUE ON AND BE DESTROYED WHENEVER I CHOOSE TO INTENSIFY YOUR BODY RADIATION !"



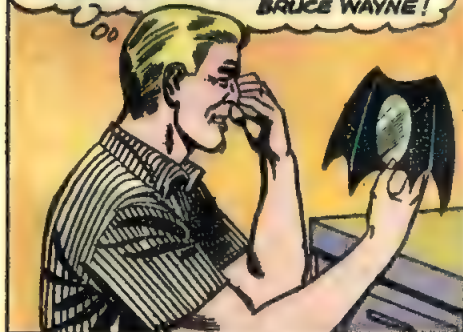
"SO ENDED THE MESSAGE--LEAVING ME LIKE A LIVING DEAD MAN..."

ONLY ONE MAN COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS--THE RADIOACTIVE CRIMINAL, IRA RADON ! BUT BATMAN DOESN'T DARE SEEK HIM OUT--WITHOUT RISKING INSTANT DEATH ! THEREFORE--BATMAN MUST BOW OUT OF THE PICTURE ...



INSIDE THE VAN, WHILE RECALLING THESE BITTER EVENTS, BATMAN HAS BEEN APPLYING MAKE-UP TO HIS FEATURES...

WHEN I JUMP OUT OF THIS VAN ON A LONELY STREET CORNER, I DON'T WANT ANY CHANCE PASSERBY RECOGNIZING **BRUCE WAYNE!**

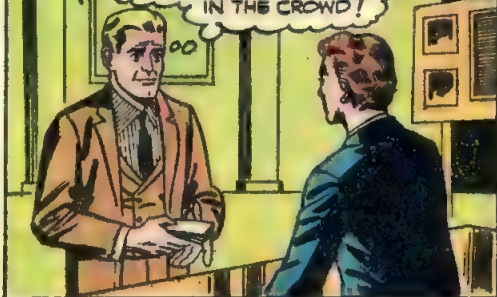


NEXT DAY, AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...

HERE'S THE \$10,000 I BID FOR THE BATARANG!

YES, SIR! I'LL HAVE THE BATARANG BROUGHT OUT TO YOU...

I "SOLD" THAT BATARANG TO "MYSELF" BY POINTING TO AN IMAGINARY PERSON IN THE CROWD!



IN THE HOUSE THAT HAS BEEN HIS HIDE-OUT SINCE HIS ESCAPE FROM THE PRISON HOSPITAL, IRA RADON PONDER'S THOUGHTFULLY...

I WONDER WHO BOUGHT THOSE BAT-WEAPONS--AT SUCH HIGH PRICES? I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT THE NAMES OF THE BUYERS! IT'S LIKE A STRANGE COMPUSSION--



SOON HIS INVESTIGATION LEADS TO THE SURPRISING DISCOVERY THAT...

INCREDIBLE! ALL BUT ONE OF THE BAT-OBJECTS WERE BOUGHT BY AGENTS FOR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION! IT WANTS TO DISPLAY THE OBJECTS IN ITS MUSEUM! THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE--

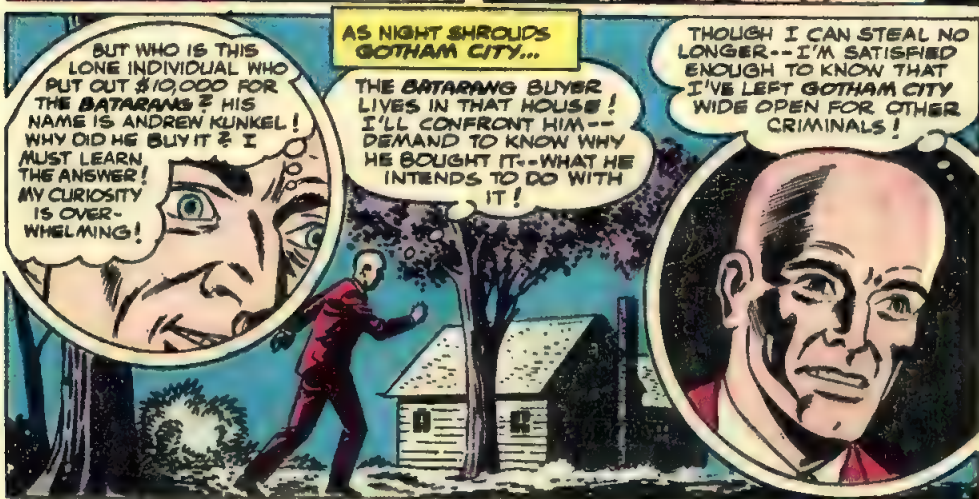


AS NIGHT SHROUDS GOTHAM CITY...

THE BATARANG BUYER LIVES IN THAT HOUSE! I'LL CONFRONT HIM-- DEMAND TO KNOW WHY HE BOUGHT IT--WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO WITH IT!

THOUGH I CAN STEAL NO LONGER--I'M SATISFIED ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT I'VE LEFT GOTHAM CITY WIDE OPEN FOR OTHER CRIMINALS!

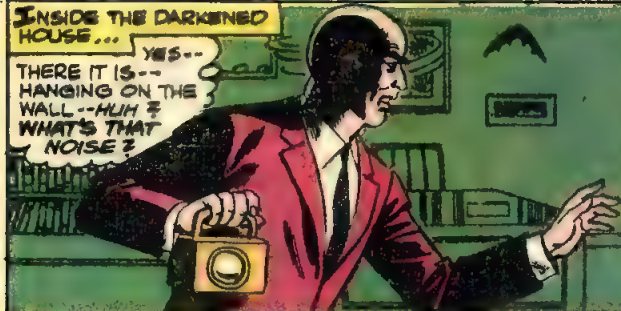
BUT WHO IS THIS LONE INDIVIDUAL WHO PUT OUT \$10,000 FOR THE BATARANG? HIS NAME IS ANDREW KUNKEL! WHY DID HE BUY IT? I MUST LEARN THE ANSWER! MY CURIOSITY IS OVERWHELMING!



INSIDE THE DARKENED
HOUSE...

YES--

THERE IT IS--
HANGING ON THE
WALL--HUM ?
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE ?



CLANKK
CLANKK



eh ? WHAT
IS IT ? WHO
ARE YOU ?
WHA-WHAT
DO YOU
WANT ?

YOU-ARE-MY-
PRISONER !



AS THAT HOLLOW, BOOMING
VOICE BLASTS FROM THE
BIZARRE FIGURE IN CLAY...

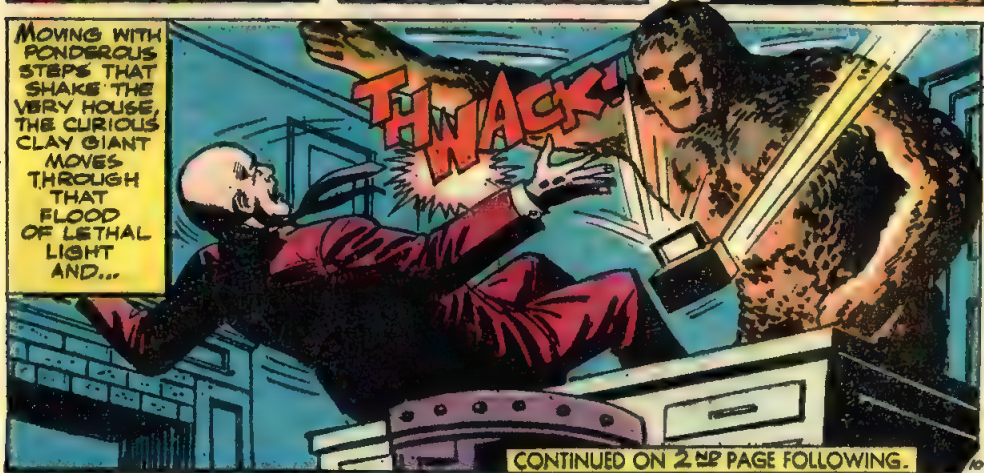
SO THAT WAS YOUR GAME !
YOU LURED ME HERE WITH
THE BATARANG--TO CAPTURE
ME ! YOU BLUNDERER--YOU'VE
SIGNED YOUR OWN DEATH
WARRANT !



I NEVER GAVE BATMAN
THE DEATH-DOSE OF
RADIATION-- BUT, I'LL
GIVE IT TO YOU ! IN
THREE SECONDS--
YOU'LL BE
DEAD !



MOVING WITH
PONDEROUS
STEPS THAT
SHAKE THE
VERY HOUSE,
THE CURIOUS
CLAY GIANT
MOVES
THROUGH
THAT
FLOOD OF
LETHAL
LIGHT
AND...



THWACK!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

CRUNCH!

YIP!

**KRYPTO
TANGLES WITH
HIS ARCH-ENEMY,
DESTRUCTO!**

BLAM!

**The GENERAL'S
CRIMINAL ARMY TURNS
ITS SECRET WEAPONS
ON SUPERBOY!**

**SUPERBOY
DUELS DEV-EM,
The KNAVE from KRYPTON!**



ALL IN THIS GREAT BATTLE ISSUE

**of 80 pg.
GIANT**

SUPERBOY



**ON SALE
MARCH
14th**

STILL ALIVE ? SOMEHOW--THAT CLAY IS PROTECTING YOU ! BUT ONCE I SHATTER IT WITH THIS BATARANG--ANOTHER DOSE OF RADIATION WILL FINISH YOU !



AWKWARDLY ADVANCING, THE CLAY FIGURE GRIPS IRA RADON...

THAT JUDO GRIP-- THE SAME ONE USED ON ME BY--! NOW I KNOW WHO YOU ARE ! I TOLD YOU YOUR MODUS OPERANDI WOULD BETRAY YOU-- BATMAN !!



NOW THAT I'VE RECOGNIZED YOU--YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, BATMAN !



YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO KILL YOU--BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF RADIATION IN YOUR BODY WITH MY INTENSIFIER !

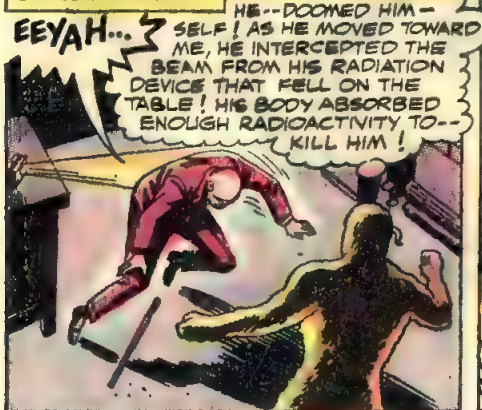


OH--I WASTED TOO MUCH TIME TALKING ! HE SMASHED THE INTENSIFIER--!

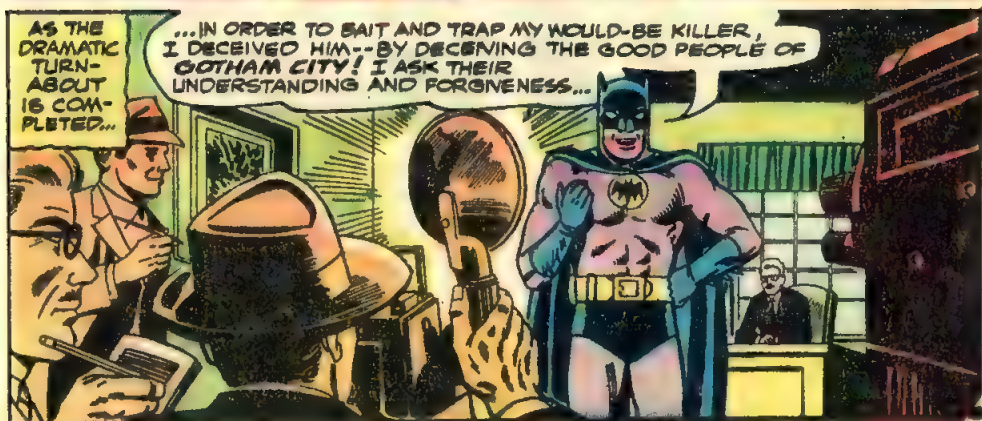
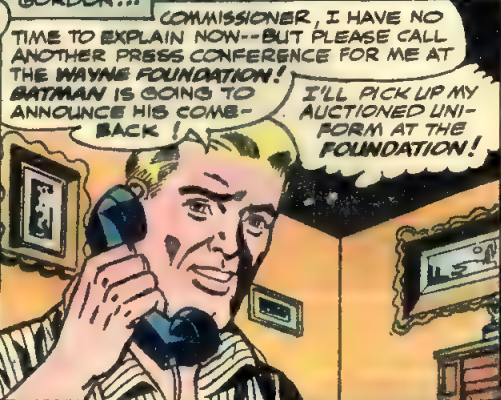




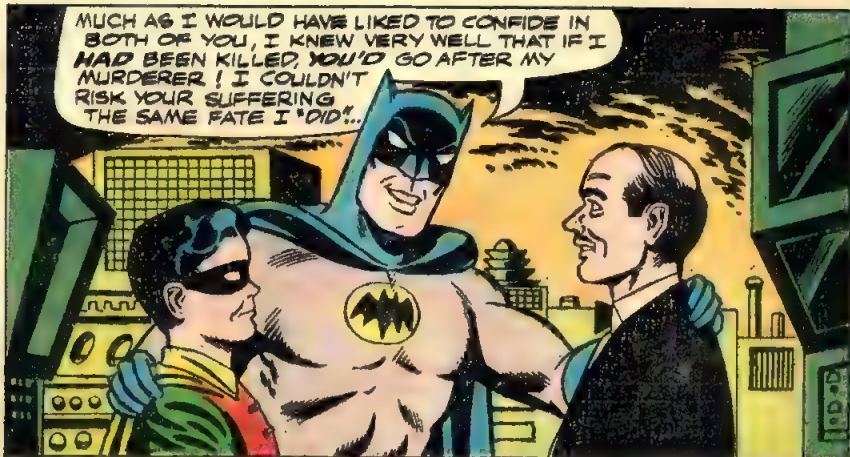
THEN-- BEFORE EITHER BLOW CAN BE COMPLETED...



REMOVING HIS CLAY ARMOR, THE DISGUISED BATMAN PHONES POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

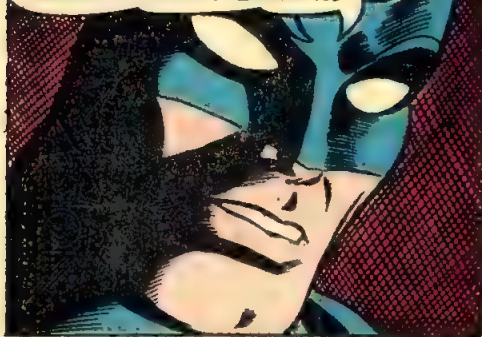


LATER,
IN THE
BAT-CAVE--
A
HAPPY
REUNION
WITH
ROBIN
AND
ALFRED...



MUCH AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONFIDE IN BOTH OF YOU, I KNEW VERY WELL THAT IF I **HAD BEEN KILLED, YOU'D GO AFTER MY MURDERER!** I COULDN'T RISK YOUR SUFFERING THE SAME FATE I **"DID"**...

I CONCEALED MYSELF IN CLAY BECAUSE CLAY--WHEN HEATED TO 2372 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT--"LOCKS IN" RADIO-ACTIVITY, WHICH IS HOW "HOT" WASTE PRODUCTS ARE DISPOSED OF. THE CLAY ACTED AS A SHIELD AGAINST RADON'S LETHAL BLAST...



I ADAPTED ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR BLIND PEOPLE--TO ENABLE ME TO "SEE" WITHOUT EYES...

YES, I READ ABOUT THAT IN **LIFE MAGAZINE!** IT'S CALLED "EARSIGHT" AND WORKS BY THE USE OF HIGH-FREQUENCY SOUND!



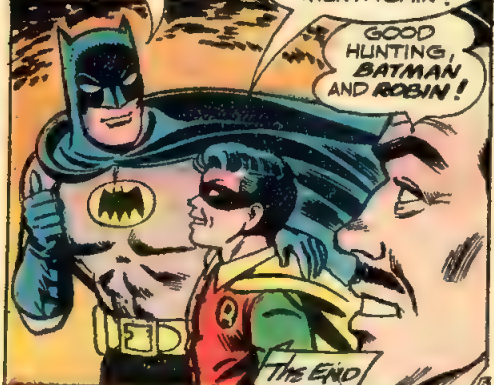
OF COURSE, I REMOVED THE HARMFUL RADIOACTIVITY FROM THESE **BAT-OBJECTS** BEFORE PUTTING THEM UP FOR AUCTION. EVENTUALLY, I'LL HAVE THE RADIATION REMOVED FROM MY BODY TOO. AND NOW, **ROBIN...**



HOW ABOUT GOING OUT ON OUR NIGHTLY PATROL IN THE **BATMOBILE?**

THOSE WORDS ARE SWEET MUSIC TO MY EARS! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR THEM AGAIN!

GOOD HUNTING, **BATMAN AND ROBIN!**



THE END

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

To paraphrase Robin, "How camp can you get?" I knew and appreciated the difference between the campy caricatures of *B&R* on the TV screen and the "real" *B&R* of your usually fine magazine . . . until you threw us "The Eraser who Tried to Rub Out Batman!" The story was aptly named. Any more stories like that, and it may rub out *Batman*! I don't mean to say the story was all bad. That side-play about Bruce's and *Batman*'s popularity with females is okay . . . if it isn't all campily run into the ground. The rare insight into Bruce's campus days was fine, too. In fact, the side-plot flash-backs were better than the main story. Let me itemize some of my complaints:

(A) The "Eraser" himself. So he had a special compound that removes clues? Neat idea! But does he have to put it in the head of a monstrously bulky headmask, topping a suit that makes him look like a pencil . . . and with clownish pointed toes yet? He actually remembers that humiliating day of the Winter Carnival, and holds it against Bruce in his mad scheme. Yet no one, not even in the narrative blurbs, said that Fiasco was insane. In fact, he is shown as reasonably sane in the story's last panel. But his actions in the tale said to me that he's nuttier than the *Joker* and *Riddler* together. Or is he just a "poor, misguided man" as Adam West is fond of intoning?

(B) I could almost wish you hadn't brought Alfred back if you're going to subject him to such silliness as wearing asbestos gloves to pick up the *Hot-Line* phone . . . !

(C) Panel 3, page 5: *B&R* ascending the side of the building a la TV method. When I recall how strenuous it looked in "the old days" . . . !

(D) Full-page fight scene, and oversized POWS and ZAMS. I realize that those who know the *Dynamic Duo* only from television expect this overactive adrenalin, but to me it represents capitulation to the super-hero (which *Batman* is not) image.

(E) The ending sequence on page 14 is delivered with all the solemn-faced, embarrassing mock-seriousness (as contrasted with the usual outright joking or wise-cracking) we find in TV's Commissioner Gordon.

Fortunately issue 188 also contained "The Ten Best-Dressed Corpses in Gotham City!" To show I believe in equality, I'll itemize the good points in this story:

(A) The mystery involved. The "whodunit" idea that fits *Batman* as it does no other costumed hero. The false lead half-way through was a good touch.

(B) Sid Greene's inking is going uphill and is closer and closer approaching the great *Batman* style of Bob Kane in his early days.

(C) The suspense was good and well-held and yet the story was speedily enough paced without being nothing but action.

(D) The denouement explanation is always essential to the detective story. It was well done here and a lot better ending than the cloying one of the first story.

(E) For once the criminal was a murderer and the tale a murder mystery, and his identity was not known until the end of the story, and yet he was always in it.

I was drawn to *Batman* because of the atmos-

phere and mystery. I enjoy stories featuring some costumed heroes, and action should always be there, and humor and fun are not amiss either, but I wish you'd let *Batman* be more the detective than like *Superman*, *Flash*, and others.

—Stephen Harell, Kansas City, Mo.

(At least you were fair enough to have the five bad barbs of the first *Batman* story in issue 188 blunted by the five good points of the second yarn. That's what we call giving "equal time"!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I am one of your newer readers, so I have been around for only a year, but of all the *Batman* stories I've read I've never seen one as fantastic as "The Eraser who Tried to Rub Out Batman!" I must admit I didn't expect it to be much, but it left me flabbergasted! The plot was original and the villain was marvelous. It was a stroke of genius to have a villain who was seeking revenge on *Bruce Wayne*, and unfortunately (for himself) picked the *Caped Crusader*!

I hope I haven't elated you too much for a small letdown. There were a few points I didn't like about the story. Why must you underrate poor *Robin* or *Dick Grayson* as far as girls are concerned? *Bruce Wayne* or *Batman* is handsome all right but I think *Robin* is absolutely irresistible! I want to see more of *Robin*'s love life. Also was it really necessary to have those crooks saying *Bruce Wayne* didn't have any guts? Everyone has pride you know.

As for the cover, I don't think it fit in too well with what happened in the story. You show the *Eraser* rubbing out half of *Batman*'s and *Robin*'s bodies—when actually in the story the *Eraser* merely rubbed out crime-clues, not people.

—Sheila Horne, Baltimore, Md.

(The "rubbing out" portrayal of *Batman* and *Robin* on the cover was meant to be "symbolic" of the story's theme. But it *themes* you didn't dig it!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I've finally done it! I found not one but two mistakes in *Batman* 188. In the *Eraser* story you have Alfred saying, "The *Hot-Line* has been blazing since you were out, sir! I had to put on asbestos gloves to pick it up!" Then, in the very next panel, you have *Bruce Wayne* pick up the phone with his bare hands!

On page 4 of the same story *Robin* is thinking, "It doesn't matter whether it's *Bruce Wayne* or *Batman*—I'm always left out in the cold!" Yet in the follow-up panel you have a girl say she was a *mind reader*! In that case, *Robin* would have unwittingly revealed to her *Batman*'s secret identity!

—Lorelei Reinhardt, Hialeah, Fla.

(The bit of business about Alfred wearing asbestos gloves to pick up the *Hot-Line* was a gag—camp-style. As for the girl claiming to be a "mind reader"—she meant it in the sense that she could imagine *Robin*'s thoughts about *Batman* being idolized by those gorgeous gals—and soothed his feelings with a kiss!—Editor)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

IT WAS A GOURMET-MEAL PREPARED FOR AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB--BUT ALFRED KNEW IT WOULD BE THE LAST SUPPER HE'D EVER SERVE--UNLESS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CRASHED THE PARTY!

ALFRED'S MYSTERY MENU!

BATMAN AND ROBIN
DON'T REALIZE IT--
BUT BY PREVENTING
THIS FOOD-STORE
ROBBERY THEY ARE
SIGNING THE DEATH
WARRANT OF THEIR
BUTLER, **ALFRED!**



THROUGH THE RAIN-SPLATTERED STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY SLOSHES THE BATMOBILE ON ITS NIGHTLY PATROL...

WE'RE BATTING ZERO TONIGHT, BATMAN! NO SIGN OF CRIMINALS--OR ALFRED!

EASY, ROBIN! WE'RE BOTH WORRIED ABOUT ALFRED...AND HIS MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE-- BUT THINGS'LL WORK OUT!

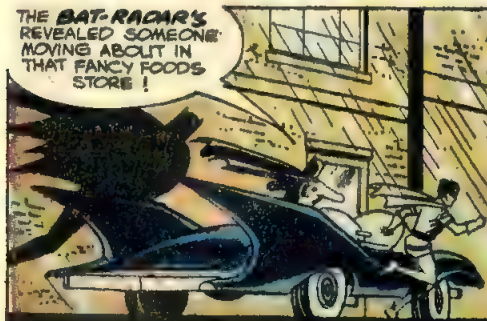


LIKE AN EERIE EYE THAT SCANS THE BUILDINGS PAST WHICH THE CAR GLIDES WITH PURRING POWER, THE BAT-RADAR SCREEN SLOWLY REVOLVES...

IT JUST ISN'T LIKE ALFRED TO GO OFF AND NOT LEAVE OR SEND US A MESSAGE! THERE ISN'T EVEN A HINT FROM OUR UNDERWORLD GRAPEVINE CONNECTIONS ABOUT-- HOLD IT! LISTEN!



THE BAT-RADAR'S REVEALED SOMEONE MOVING ABOUT IN THAT FANCY FOODS STORE!



HOLY APPETIZERS! DON'T TELL ME SOME CROOKS HAVE DEVELOPED AN EXPENSIVE TASTE FOR FOOD DELICACIES!

ODD THAT THEY SHOULD STEAL FOOD AND NOT CASH-- EVEN SUCH EXOTIC FOOD AS THIS PLACE STOCKS!

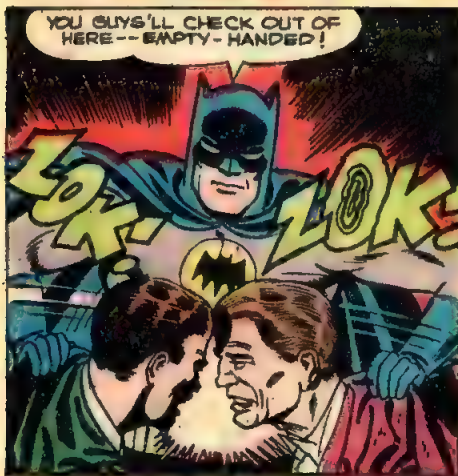
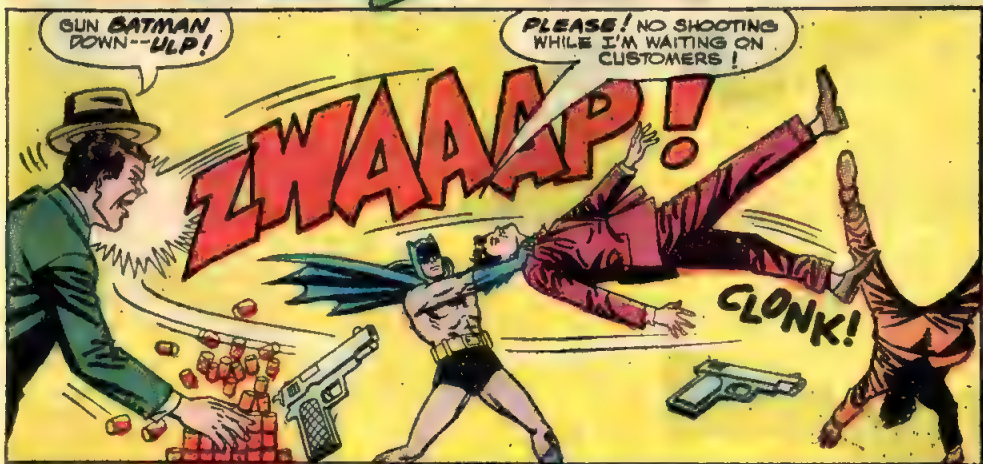
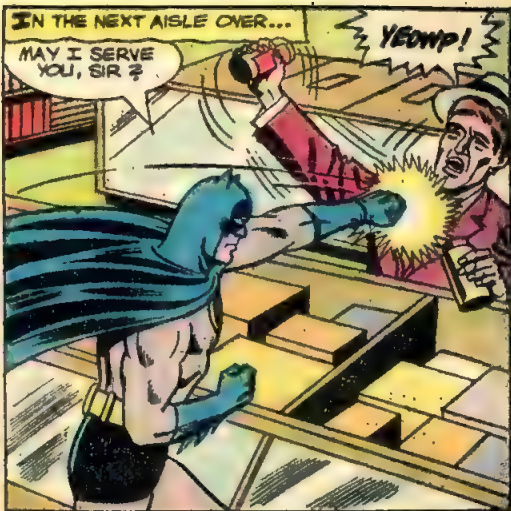


ROB--

KWAK!
WING!

--IN'S THE NAME--HERE TO SATISFY THOSE HUNGERPAINS OF YOURS!





LATER, DAWN TINTS THE SKY AN
ANGRY RED AS THE **BATMOBILE**
STREAKS HOMEWARD...

I JUST CAN'T GET
ALFRED OUT OF MY
MIND, **BATMAN**!
WHERE IS HE--
WHAT'S HE DOING--

HE'D GET
IN TOUCH
WITH US--
IF HE COULD!
I'M BE-
GINNING
TO FEAR
THE WORST--



...THE EYES OF ALFRED THE
BUTLER ARE STARING AT
THAT SAME DAWN SKY, MILES
AWAY FROM THE MANSION
WHERE HE SERVES AS BUTLER
TO MILLIONAIRE BRUCE
WAYNE ...

IT SEEMS LIKE
FOREVER AND NOT JUST
20 HOURS SINCE THOSE
HOODS GRABBED ME OFF
THE SIDEWALK AND INTO
THEIR BIG BLACK LIMOUSINE!
I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT
WAS TAKING PLACE ...



"UNTIL I FOUND MYSELF A
PRISONER IN THIS HOUSE,
FACE TO FACE WITH THEIR
CHIEFTAIN ...

YA KNOW,
ALFRED--I BEEN ELECTED
INTO THE **MILLIONAIRE**
MOBSTER CLUB! YEAH--
ME, DUKE KELSEY! I'VE
FINALLY STOLEN A MILLION
IRON MEN SO I'VE GOTTA
GIVE AN INITIATION
SPREAD, SEE ?



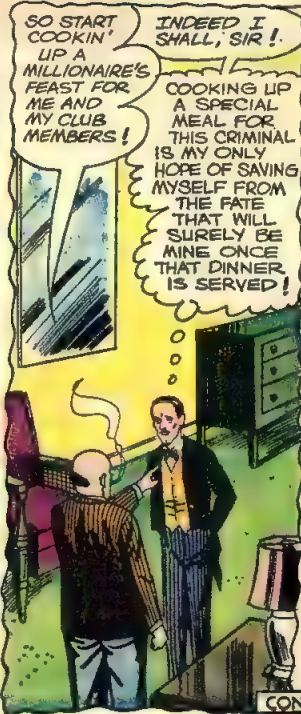
BUT I DON'T DO THINGS
HALF-HEARTED, SEE ? IF I'M
A MILLIONAIRE MOBSTER I
GOTTA SERVE A MILLIONAIRE'S
MEAL, GET IT ? SO I HAD THE
BOYS BRING YA HERE ! YOU
WORK FOR A REAL
MILLIONAIRE, RIGHT ?



SO START
COOKIN'
UP A
MILLIONAIRE'S
FEAST FOR
ME AND
MY CLUB
MEMBERS !

INDEED I
SHALL, SIR !

COOKING UP
A SPECIAL
MEAL FOR
THIS CRIMINAL
IS MY ONLY
HOPE OF SAVING
MYSELF FROM
THE FATE
THAT WILL
SURELY BE
MINE ONCE
THAT DINNER
IS SERVED !



NO CLUES WERE LEFT BY
THE MEN WHO GRABBED ME
BY WHICH **BATMAN** AND
ROBIN COULD POSSIBLY
TRAIL ME HERE--SO IT'S
UP TO ME TO SUPPLY THEM
WITH CLUES ! I'LL PREPARE
A "MESSAGE MENU"--AND
TRUST TO THEIR QUICK WITS
TO FATHOM IT !



CONTINUED ON 24 PAGE FOLLOWING.

RIDE the
HIGH SEAS
with

BOATERIFIC

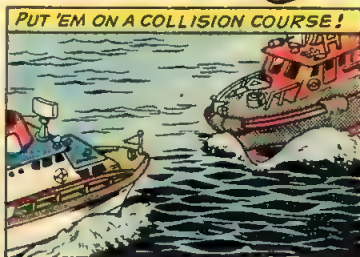
the NEW ACTION FLEET,
POWERED by the FAMOUS
MOTORIFIC
MOTORS!

NOW HEAR THIS: NOW MOTORIFIC
TAKES TO THE WATER WITH **BOATERIFIC**.
THERE ARE SIX GREAT **BOATERIFIC**
BOATS AND EACH ONE HAS A FULLY
STEERABLE RUDDER, REAL
PROPELLER POWER, AN AUTOMATIC
BAILING PUMP AND SUPER-REALISTIC
DETAILS. JUST SNAP IN A MOTOR...
BATTEN DOWN THE HATCH AND
FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH
BOATERIFIC!



RACE 'EM!

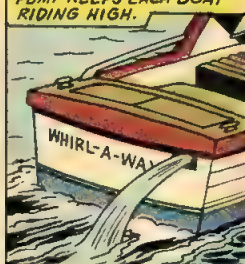
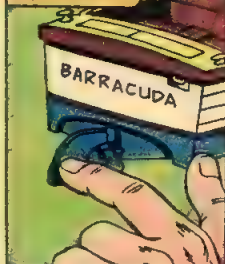
PUT 'EM ON A COLLISION COURSE!



SET ANY DIRECTION
YOU WANT...

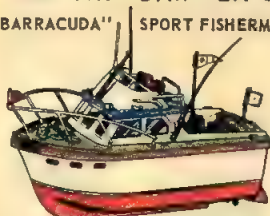
DO ALL KINDS OF TRICKY MANEUVERS!

REAL, AUTOMATIC BAILING
PUMP KEEPS EACH BOAT
RIDING HIGH.



BE THE SKIPPER OF YOUR OWN **BOATERIFIC** FLEET... GET 'EM ALL!

"BARRACUDA" SPORT FISHERMAN



"ATLAS" HARBOR TUG



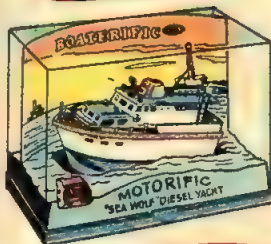
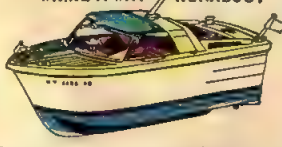
"MIGHTY BLAZE" FIRE BOAT



"KING OF THE SEA" CABIN CRUISER



"WHIRL-A-WAY" RUNABOUT



EACH BOAT COMES WITH A **MOTORIFIC** MOTOR,
STURDY HULL AND SNAP-ON SUPERSTRUCTURE
... ALL IN AN ACTION SETTING. YOU CAN EVEN
DISPLAY 'EM IN YOUR ROOM. THEY'RE THE BEST
LOOKIN' BOATS, IN AND OUT OF THE WATER!

BOATERIFIC...it's TERRIFIC...IT'S

IDEAL

"SO I PREPARED A CULINARY DELIGHT THAT WAS BOUND TO PLEASE DUKE KELSEY..."

THERE YOU ARE, SIR! LISTS OF INGREDIENTS, I'LL NEED FOR THE DINNER!

I LIKE IT--I LIKE IT! BUT IT AIN'T MY NATURE TO BUY THESE THINGS! I'LL SEND MY BOYS OUT TO STEAL THEM!

PRECISELY AS I COUNTED ON HIM DOING!

GREAT WORK, ALFRED! YOU'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF WHEN THIS IS OVER!

"TAKE CARE OF ME"--UNDERWORLD JARGON FOR KILLING ME! HOW WELL I KNOW THAT ONCE I'VE SEEN THE FACES OF THE MILLIONAIRE CRIMINALS I WON'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE TO IDENTIFY THEM IN A COURT OF LAW!

THEN... HERE IT IS, DUKE--EVERYTHING YA WANTED EXCEPT PER THAT APPETIZER STUFF!

YEAH--BATMAN AND ROBIN INTERRUPTED MONK AND HIS GORILLAS WHILE THEY WAS ROBBIN' THE SPECIALTY STORE!

THIS IS A SHOCK! WHAT MONK WAS TO STEAL FOR THE APPETIZER COURSE WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY CLUE! WITHOUT IT, BATMAN AND ROBIN WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND AND SAVE ME!

LATER THAT SAME DAY, AS DICK GRAYSON RETURNS FROM SCHOOL...

WHAT KEEPS YOU GLUED TO THE NEWS-PAPER, BRUCE?

IT'S VERY ODD, DICK--BUT A NUMBER OF OTHER FOOD STORES WERE ROBBED LAST NIGHT, IN ADDITION TO THE FOOD--ROBBERY WE STOPPED!

SURE IS FUNNY HOW THE UNDERWORLD IS SO HUNGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN!

I'M A BIT HUNGRY MYSELF, AFTER READING THE VARIOUS ITEMS THAT WERE STOLEN! AND--AS I READ THEM I KEPT THINKING OF ALFRED!

THEN--THAT MEANS YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD ANY WORD FROM ALFRED?

I'M--NOT--SURE! THAT LIST OF FANCY FOODSTUFFS THAT WERE STOLEN...YOU KNOW HOW ALFRED ALWAYS MANAGES TO SEND US SOME SORT OF MESSAGE ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS...



HOLY CRYPTOGRAM! YOU MEAN...?

IT'S POSSIBLE THIS IS HIS WAY OF TELLING US WHERE HE IS--A CAPTIVE, PERHAPS? A COMMUNICATION NOT TO BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON--BUT TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!



ALFRED ALWAYS NEEDS LOTS OF FANCY FOOD TO WHIP UP HIS CULINARY CONCOCTIONS! YOU MAY BE RIGHT!

COME ALONG, THEN! WE'VE GOT A SAFE--CRACKING JOB TO DO!



IN THE HUGE KITCHEN PANTRY...

THIS IS ALFRED'S PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHERE HE KEEPS HIS RECIPES AND SPECIAL HERBS AND SPICES BEHIND LOCK AND KEY! I WANT TO CHECK HIS RECIPE FILES--AGAINST THE FOODSTUFFS THAT WERE STOLEN!



A GUILTY LOOK PASSES OVER THE MAN AND BOY AS THE DEFT FINGERS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TURN THE SAFE'S DIAL...

ALFRED'S ALWAYS FELT A MILLIONAIRE'S HOME IS A TARGET FOR THIEVES, WHICH IS WHY HE LOCKS UP HIS PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS IN HERE!

HE WOULDN'T MIND OUR BREAKING IN, BRUCE--ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE DOING IT TO HELP HIM!



MOMENTS LATER AS THOSE PRIZED RECIPES ARE SPREAD OUT...

WE'LL GO OVER EVERY RECIPE THAT SEEMS TO APPLY! READ OUT THE INGREDIENTS THAT WERE STOLEN--WHILE I CHECK THEM AGAINST THESE RECIPES!

OKAY! LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON OUR MYSTERY MENU--



SOON... WE HAVE THEM!
THOSE CROOKS STOLE FOOD-ITEMS NECESSARY TO MAKE TWO OF ALFRED'S MENU MASTERPIECES-- **BEEF WELLINGTON** AND **FROZEN SOUFFLE WITH HOT STRAW-BERRY SAUCE!**



...IS THE SPECIALTY OF THE HOUSE AT THE "22 CLUB"! THAT GIVES US THE STREET NUMBER-- 22--BUT NOT THE STREET IN WELLINGTON PARK!
BEEF WELLINGTON COULD BE A TIP-OFF TO WHERE ALFRED IS-- **WELLINGTON PARK**, A SUBURB NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY! WHILE THE **STRAWBERRY SOUFFLE** AS THE DESSERT...



I DO, DICK! IRONICALLY ENOUGH-- **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** BROKE UP THE VERY ROBBERY THAT WAS TO HAVE FURNISHED THEM WITH CLUES BY MEANS OF THAT VERY APPETIZER!



AND WITH-OUT KNOW-ING WHAT THE APPETIZER IS--WE CAN'T COMPLETE ALFRED'S SECRET MESSAGE! THAT IS--IF WE AREN'T JUST MAKING ALL THIS UP OUT OF THIN AIR!

WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, ALL RIGHT! SEE HERE--INSTEAD OF THE STANDARD SHERRY WHICH CROOKS USE IN PREPARING **BEEF WELLINGTON**--WE HAVE MENTION OF THE VERY **SPECIAL ONE** ALFRED ALWAYS USES! IT'S AS IF HE SIGNED HIS NAME!

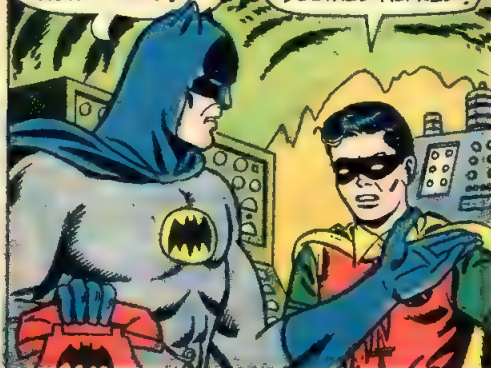


NOW WHERE DOES **BEEF WELLINGTON** LEAD TO, I WONDER!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD IN THE **BATCAVE**...

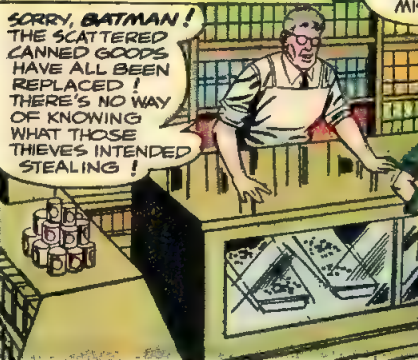
COMMISSIONER GORDON SAYS THE CROOKS WE CAUGHT LAST NIGHT WON'T TALK!

BY CATCHING THOSE CROOKS, WE MAY HAVE DOOMED ALFRED!



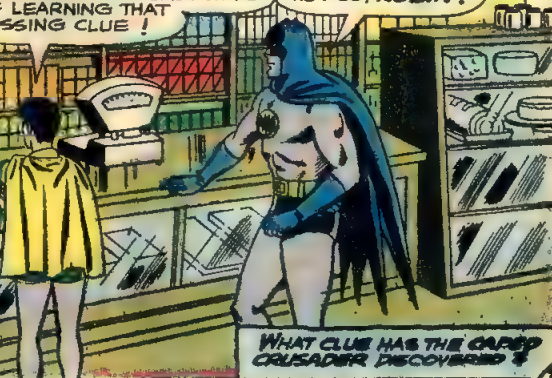
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER IN THE SPECIALTY FOOD SHOPPE...

SORRY, BATMAN! THE SCATTERED CANNED GOODS HAVE ALL BEEN REPLACED! THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT THOSE THIEVES INTENDED STEALING!



THERE GOES OUR LAST HOPE OF LEARNING THAT MISSING CLUE!

NOT SO, ROBIN!



WHAT CLUE HAS THE CAPED CRUSADER DISCOVERED?



LAST NIGHT THERE WAS SAWDUST ON THIS FLOOR!

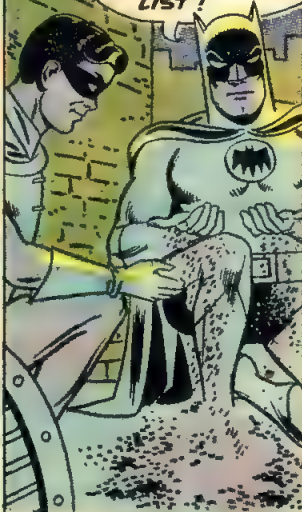
THAT'S SO! WE COVER OUR FLOOR AT NIGHT WITH A SPECIAL SAWDUST THAT ABSORBS DIRT AND SPILLED FOODS, THEN SWEEP IT UP IN THE MORNING!

QUICKLY! WHERE ARE THOSE SWEEPINGS?

OUTSIDE THE STORE, IN A BACK ALLEY...

BUT WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

THOSE THIEVES HAD TO STEAL **VERY SPECIAL ITEMS!** THEY WOULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON OVERLOOKING ANYTHING-- SO THEY MUST HAVE HAD A **SHOPPING LIST!**



SURE--WHEN WE SEARCHED THEM LAST NIGHT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY SUCH LIST ON THEM--SO YOU FIGURE IT FELL DURING THE FIGHTING AND WAS SWEEP-- **HERE IT IS!**

LET'S SEE THOSE INGREDIENTS, **ROBIN!**



IN THE **BAT-MOBILE**, SECONDS AFTERWARD...

I DON'T NEED A RECIPE FILE TO KNOW THE INGREDIENTS FOR **OYSTERS DUCHESSE** WHEN I SEE IT! THAT'S ONE OF ALFRED'S GOURMET APPETIZERS!

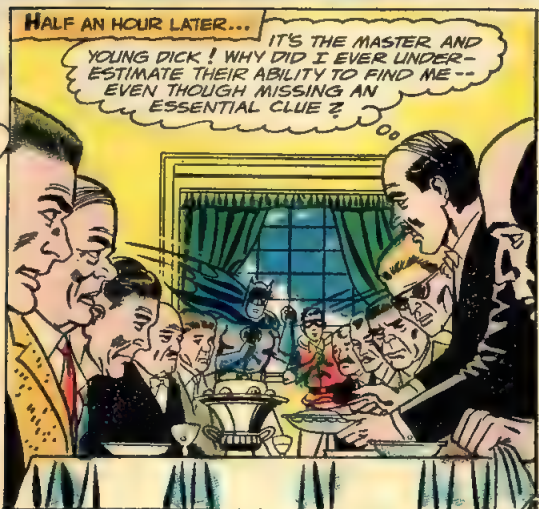
NOW IF ONLY THERE'S AN **OYSTER OR DUCHESSE STREET** IN WELLINGTON PARK!



AS THE **BOY WONDER** SCANS A MAP...

WE'RE STILL ON THE BEAM, **BATMAN!** THERE'S NO **OYSTER STREET**-- BUT THERE IS A **DUCHESSE ROAD** IN WELLINGTON PARK! **22 DUCHESSE ROAD!**

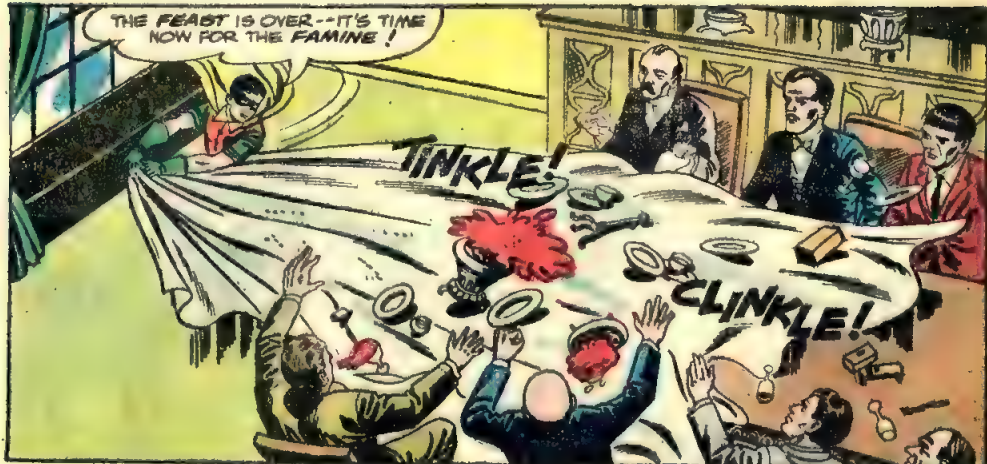
ALFRED, OLD BOY-- YOU BETTER BE THERE!



HALF AN HOUR LATER...

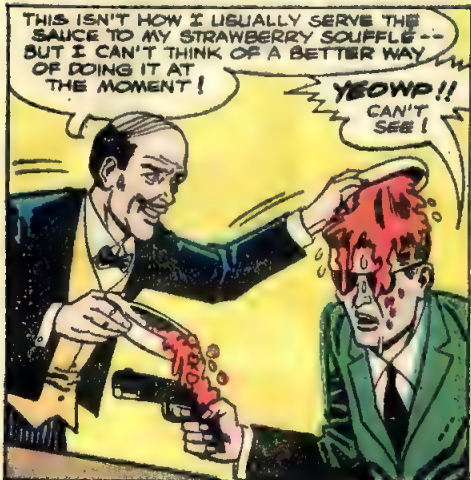
IT'S THE MASTER AND YOUNG DICK! WHY DID I EVER UNDERESTIMATE THEIR ABILITY TO FIND ME-- EVEN THOUGH MISSING AN ESSENTIAL CLUE?

THE FEAST IS OVER--IT'S TIME
NOW FOR THE FAMINE!



THIS ISN'T HOW I USUALLY SERVE THE
SAUCE TO MY STRAWBERRY SOUFFLE--
BUT I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY
OF DOING IT AT
THE MOMENT!

YEOWP!!
CAN'T
SEE!



IF YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT AN UPSET
STOMACH--BLAME ME--NOT
ALFRED'S COOKING!



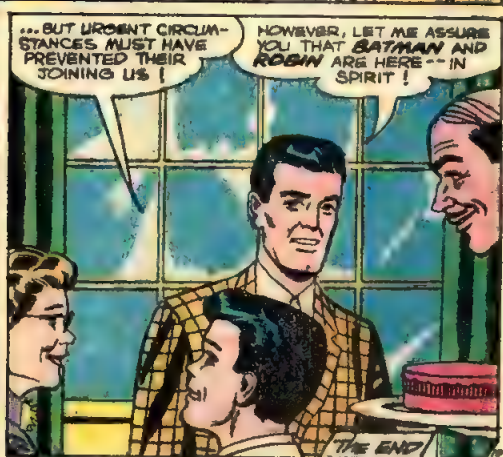
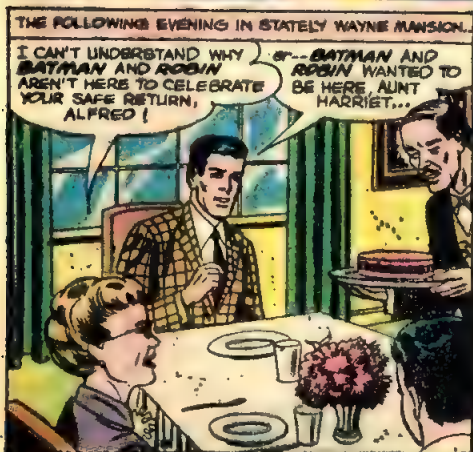
HERE YOU ARE, SIR--TWO MORE
CUSTOMERS FOR YOUR CRASH
DIET PROGRAM!



THIS IS AN APPALLING
WASTE OF FOOD--
BUT IT'S ALL IN A
GOOD CAUSE!

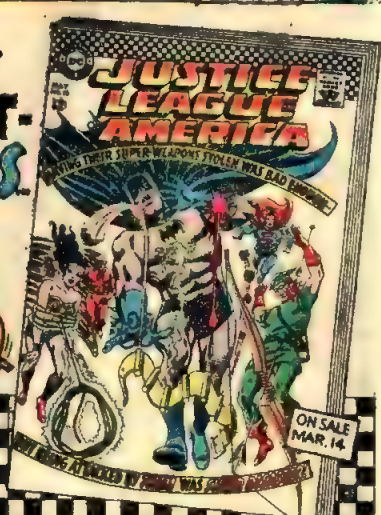
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT, ALFRED!
THEY'RE GETTING
THEIR JUST
DESSERTS!



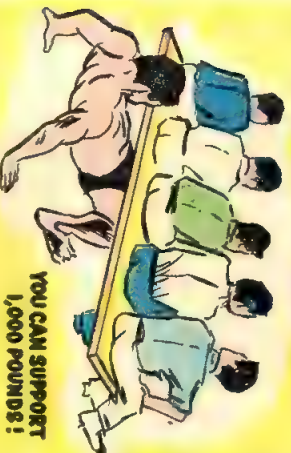


For the **MOST** in
BAT-
THRILLS.

GO-
GO-
GO



HOW TO DO STRONG MAN TRICKS ...WITHOUT STRENGTH! FREE 30 day trial proves it to you!



**YOU CAN SUPPORT
1,000 POUNDS!**

**NO SUPER-POWER NEEDED
WHEN YOU KNOW THESE
AMAZING SECRETS!**

- ★ Tear telephone book in half
- ★ Lift weights with one finger
- ★ Tear deck of cards in half
- ★ Lift man overhead with one hand
- ★ Bend heavy spikes with your hands

Now, regardless of your present strength, you can entertain the crowds and amaze your friends with **STRONG MAN STUTTS** that make you feel like a **SUPERMAN**. It's so easy — when you know how. There's an easy trick to doing every **BAFFLING STUNT** and you can **PROVE** it to yourself, as our guest, for the next 30 days. Unless you are breaking planks, lifting huge weights, driving nails with your first and **WINNING** new admiration — in 30 days, return the complete **POWER-PACKED Strong Man's Course** and your money back. Fair enough? **ONLY** because we know **YOU** can achieve these miracles, do we make such a **DARING** offer.

Women admire and men respect a person with strength. **DON'T BE BULLIED** — gain this new **POWER** and become the invincible leader. Remember — you don't need muscles, you don't have to be strong and big! All you need is the **"KNOW-HOW"** to perform these **MIRACLES** at home, school, on the beach, at work, at parties — wherever you are. In 10 minutes you'll be a master of baffling **STRONG MAN STUTTS!** The complete illustrated Course shows you step-by-step how to get on the "road-to-popularity" and gain the **RESPECT** you want. Send \$1.00 today and get ready to be the "he-man" you can be!



**BREAK PLANK WITH
YOUR BARE HANDS!**

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE--EXTRA

Dear Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to question the present type of villain featured in *Batman*. The average *Batman* bad guy nowadays is some scientist or small-time crook who has lucked up on some "sensational" gimmick, usable for crime. He robs at random, usually looting only one place in the entire story—or two if he's lucky—being caught rather easily at the end. Come on, now! Where's the old rock 'em, sock 'em type villain who puts up a good fight to the finish? Suddenly the plot has become all important and the villain insignificant. In the "Old Look" a villain robbed at least four places by the time the story was over and always worked in a pattern. And another thing. The gimmicks these new crooks use are so phoney that these crooks never return after their initial fight. Of course there are exceptions, such as *Johnny Wits*, an incredibly good and neglected foe.

However, improvement can be made. The solution is very simple indeed. Set up a regular system of villains similar to *Flash's*. Sure, create some new foes once in a while, but keep the oldies returning time and time again to plague *Batman*. How about *Killer Moth*, who was to crime what *Batman* was to law? Or the *Signalman*, who was constantly trying to prove himself among criminals? Here are a few others who would do well returned: *Catman*, *Catwoman*, *Dr. Tzin-Tzin*, *Human Firefly*, *Riddler*, *Clayface*, *Joker*, *Falseface*, *Penguin*, *Two-Face*, *Mirror Man*, *Hugo Strange*, and *Dr. Death*. Remember, sensational villains helped to make *Batman* great.

I'm sure other readers will support my opinions concerning *Batman*.

—Bruce Burke, Cleveland, Ohio.

(*Killer Moth* flitted back in the January *Detective Comics*; the *Riddler* popped up in the April *Detective*; *Johnny Wits* hits the comeback trail in the next *Batman*. In due time we expect to villain-ify you with many of the other infamous names you mention.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

As much as I like the "New Look," I still re-read the old *Alfred* tales of the future, which featured such characters as *Batman II*, *Robin II*, *Batwoman*, and *Batwoman II*. I was just wondering—who would *Batman* wed if he married today, not the *Batman* of yesteryear? The old *Batman* had such girl friends as *Linda Page*, *Vicky Vale*, and *Kathy Kane*. The likely candidates today would probably be *Poison Ivy*, if she reformed; *Batgirl* (you never can tell); and some others I can't think of right now. Personally, I think a reformed *Poison Ivy* would be an ideal wife for *Batman*. A warm friendship will probably develop between *Batman* and *Batgirl*, but DC is totally unpredictable in love and war (see *Flash* 165 and *Green Lantern* 49) and who knows—before the year is up, *Robin* may elope with *Supergirl*!

—Elizabeth Kane, East Meadow, N.Y.

(There's no doubt in our minds who the wife of *Batman* will be—Mrs. Bruce Wayne!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Until early this year, I had never heard of *Batman*. Some of my friends told me about the *Batman* TV

show. I watched it and enjoyed it. Now it is my favorite TV show. Then I started reading *Batman* Comics, and I think they are much better than the TV show!

I think that DC Comics are the best comics. The stories are always good. I enjoy reading believable *Batman* stories, rather than stories that seem to be fiction. Sometimes I don't like stories of *Batman* battling costumed villains, but I enjoy stories with the *Riddler*. I like stories better when *Batman* and *Robin* figure out clues from crimes themselves, rather than use *Bat*-anti-crime-computers. I also like the puns the *Dynamic Duo* tell when they're fighting crooks.

—Stephen Weisenbach, Teaneck, N.J.

Dear Editor:

With a "successful seventh" now history, the Rutland (Vt.) Recreation Department is already looking ahead to the "exciting eighth" and "nifty ninth" of its annual *Halloween-Batman* parade.

Halloween is always *Batman* time in Rutland and has been so for seven consecutive years. 1966 again featured *Batman* as parade marshal of a procession viewed by an estimated 6,000 persons. City streets were alive with color and music as hundreds marched in Rutland's yearly salute to All Hallows. State-wide newspaper, radio and television focused on the event.

"IT'S BATMAN TIME!" proclaimed the float of the *Batmanians*. Riding with the *Cowled Crime-Crusher* were *Batwoman*, *Robin*, *Batmite* and *Batgirl*. Shouts of recognition greeted their passing.

"Old and New," alike, played their part. Following tradition, the *Batman* parade marshal wore no yellow emblem on his uniform. But a "New Look" *Batman*, complete with yellow design, along with another *Robin*, rode in a different section of the march.

For the "New" *Batman* and companion, their vehicle was an expensive luxury convertible, outfitted with a *Bat*-head on the front and a circled "R" on the back. Pop lettering, such as *POW*, *CRUNCH* and *WHAM* decorated the sides of the car. All too soon it was over, but before leaving the Parade-Marshal *Batman* personally shook hands with scores of youngsters who clustered about him. One tiny fellow, who had been waiting all night to see him, broke into tears as *Batman* delivered, "Happy Halloween, greetings from Commissioner Gordon!"

What are future parade plans? For '68 the parade slogan will be, "BATMAN FOR PRESIDENT." And '67 is going to be special too. *Batgirl* will really come into her own. For the *Batman* float of next year will be prominent with a huge reproduction in full color of the cover of *Detective Comics* 359, with its enticing invitation, "MEET THE NEW BATGIRL!"

As usual, Rutland invites any and all *Batman* fans to come and march when "It's *Batman* time" again!

—Tom Fagan, Rutland, Vt.

Address communications to LETTER TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

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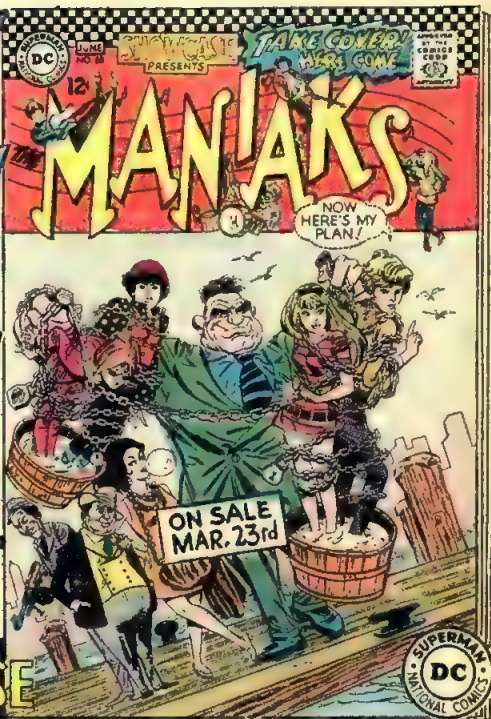
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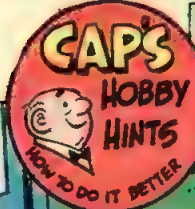
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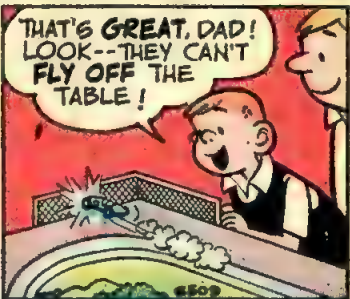
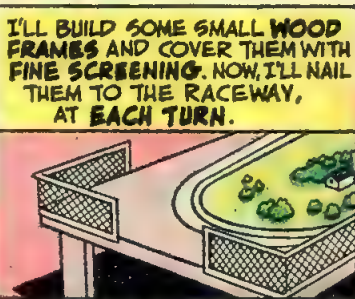
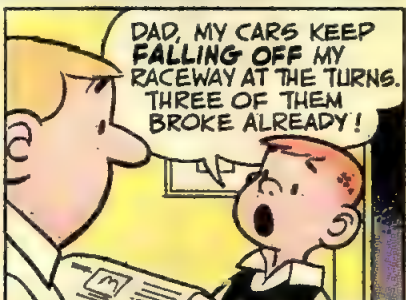
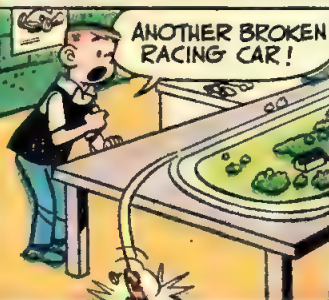
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DIRECT CURRENTS

Let's see what goodies DC has in its basket for you this month, shall we? We've been RAISIN a PEACHY crop of tasty morsels, all of which are really GRAPE stuff! So go on and read our Direct CURRANTS!

Join the NEW BLACKHAWK ERA as the MAGNIFICENT 7 face a do-or-die battle with the world terror organization whose mission is to wipe them out! May, No. 232, on sale March 9.

A FIRST—the FUTURE SUPERMAN-BATMAN TEAM faces the fantastic super-science of their arch-foes, MUTO and the FUTURE JOKER . . . in the May WORLD'S FINEST, No. 166, on sale March 9.

JERRY LEWIS is back at the BO-PEEP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, but the beastly boys have their inning, too! This 100th issue (June) also starts a series of art mess-terpieces! On sale March 9.

The Jerry Lewis Gallery of Art Mess-terpieces
#1 Mona Lisa

BATMAN'S Utility Belt—stolen! GREEN ARROW—deprived of his arrows! WONDER WOMAN'S Magic Lasso—gone! But the worst is yet to come for the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA! May, No. 53, on sale March 14.

If you dig wild beach parties, you're in for a real wing-ding when the TEEN TITANS mix it up with the college gangs at BAXTER BEACH! "THE BIG BEACH RUMBLE," June issue, No. 9, on sale March 14.

SUPERBOY in action against a villainous SUPERBOY from KRYPTON . . . KRYPTO battling an evil SUPERDOG! That and more in the June 80 PAGE GIANT, No. 138—an ALL-WAR issue, on sale March 14.

THE INFERIOR FIVE get new headquarters, a new (used) car, a fight song, four new rivals, two new enemies, and a surprise guest star, in their June issue, No. 2, on the stands March 16!

Our elastic, fun-tastic PLASTIC MAN can twist into any shape, but even his best friends are horrified when he turns himself into a master criminal, in the June issue, No. 4, on the stands March 16!

The fighters who break all the rules—HUNTER'S HELLCATS—break their way INTO a prison—to pull off the surprise mission of the war! June OUR FIGHTING FORCES, No. 107, on sale March 16.

How can SUPERMAN battle SUPERMAN? It can only mean there's a super-impostor present! It's "THE THING FROM 40,000 A.D."—and it's every bit as powerful as our own MAN OF STEEL! This cataclysmic clash occurs in the May issue, No. 196, on sale March 21!

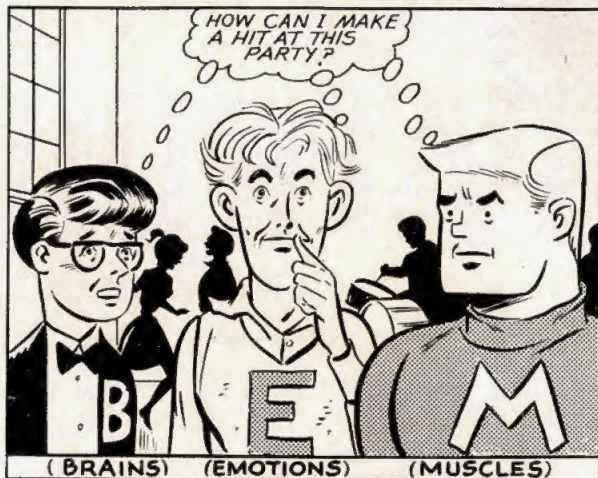
A gorilla from space transforms WONDER WOMAN into a gorilla to make her his queen, only to be startled himself by "WONDER WOMAN—GORILLA!" Also, the AMAZING AMAZON finds it impossible to capture a criminal already in her grip! May, No. 170, on sale March 21.

Watch out, world! Here come THE MANIAKS, the wildest rock-'n'-roll combo that ever missed a haircut! They're loose in PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK, NEW JERSEY, with a gang of gunmen chasing them through the pages of the June SHOWCASE, No. 68, on sale March 23!

From out of space comes a handsome mystery man with uncanny powers! He bursts steel bonds . . . melts metal in his bare hands . . . walks through solid walls . . . and romances LOIS LANE as she's never been romanced before! In the May issue, No. 74, on sale March 23!

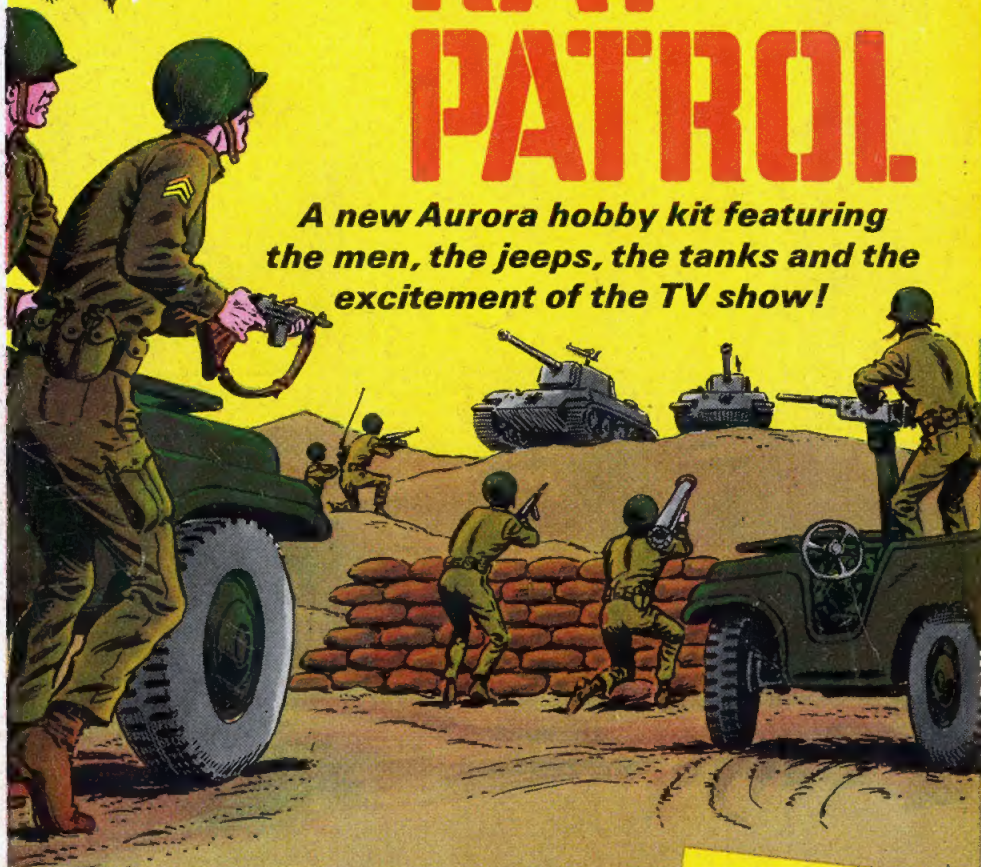
"THE NAME OF THE GAME IS DEATH!"—and the name of the mag it's in is SEA DEVILS! It's no exaggeration, either—because in this story, the famed scuba specialists wind up killing one of their own team! See how it all happens in the June issue, No. 35, on sale March 28.

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